



Library Info Alert March/April 2004

Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. It contains summaries of articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. The *Library Info Alert* is published by the Information Resource Centers in Germany.

1. Building on the Past

(*American Libraries*, April 2004, Vol. 35, Number 4, pp. 38 – 59)

Several library designs that were inspired from the past are presented. These include the Grand Rapids Public Library in Michigan that was stirred with the union of two buildings--the original 1904 Ryerson Library and the 1967 structure originally intended as its replacement--exemplifying a new model for the 21st-century design.

2. Creating a Digital-Age School

Library (Principal Leadership, April 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 8, pp. 53 - 57)

The advent of technology in schools has changed the mission of the school library from a central repository of materials to a rich information system that can successfully drive student achievement. Connie Champlin, a former teacher and school library media specialist discusses the importance of creating a high-quality digital school library for both students and faculty.

3. Should We Ever Work for Free?

(*American Libraries*, April 2004, Vol. 35, Number 4, pp. 81 – 85)

In an interview, library directors Baugher and Freedman discuss the dilemma between vocation and volunteering. Among other things, they assess that there's a difference between not having the ability to pay people and not having the desire to pay them.

4. Reconnecting the Past through Oral History (Public Libraries, March/April 2004, Vol. 43, Issue 2, pp. 108 – 12)

The Way Public Library in Perrysburg, Ohio, has recently implemented an oral history project. An important component of local history departments in public libraries is oral history.

Audiotaping or videotaping the memories of longtime local residents preserves the history of the area the library serves. Oral-based materials can be a powerful source of information, having the advantage of documenting history from a primary source. The library has also found oral history to be an economical method to build a local history collection.

5. Talking with the Police at the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library (Public Libraries, Chicago: Mar/Apr 2004, Vol. 43, Iss. 2, pp. 79 – 80)

The Bruggemeyer Memorial Library has developed a literacy program called LAMP (Literacy for All of Monterey Park) as a response to requests by English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) learners to develop conversational skills especially in the context of talking with the police. This action is in response to incidents of intimidation and anxiety of foreigners when talking to the police. The Talking with the Police program achieved many results--such as students being able to talk directly with local police officers.

6. Best Practices in Information Literacy (Portal: Libraries and the Academy, January 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 1, pp. 27 –40)

The authors discuss the application of the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) "Characteristics of Programs of Information Literacy that Illustrate Best Practices: A Guideline" to develop a successful post-secondary information literacy program. Drawing on personal experience and the literature, they examine several of the key characteristics with the intention of raising questions and exploring issues. ACRL recognized their work with information literacy at

Zayed University, UAE, selecting it as one of the ten institutions in the world demonstrating best practices.

7. Adding Substance, Not Just Frills, to a Library's Online Catalog
(*Computer in Libraries*, March 2004, Vol. 24, Issue 3, pp. 37 – 40)

Janet Balas, a library information systems specialist at Monroeville (Pa.) Public Library, discusses the use of a new integrated library system for circulation, cataloguing, and the Web OPAC. She also features about the trends toward integrating content and additional electronic resources like what Amazon.com and Google did to enhance searching capabilities and provide good service to the users.

NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Impressum:

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